

NID 81

February 10, 1981

## SITUATION REPORT

### POLAND

*The selection of Defense Minister Jaruzelski as Poland's new Prime Minister signals a new regime commitment to order and discipline.*

Party leader Kania probably hopes that the unprecedented appointment of a professional military man will be shock treatment for a population that has increasingly ignored government pleas and warnings. The party may feel that such a move is necessary to show it is serious about imposing martial law, if necessary.

Kania may hope that Jaruzelski will command the respect of Poles who look to the Army as a national institution which remains above petty politics. Jaruzelski's reputation as a moderate who has opposed the use of the armed forces against strikers may reinforce the belief of some Poles that the regime, while serious about restoring calm, is not irrevocably committed to the use of force.

The appointment of Jaruzelski was probably also a good political move for Kania and demonstrates his continuing clout. The former Prime Minister had become seriously discredited, and Jaruzelski is probably one of Kania's few close associates on the Politburo. The two have worked together for at least a decade.

Given the symbolism of the change, Solidarity cannot ignore this move as easily as it has previous government changes. The union still seems unlikely, however, to back down dramatically from pressing what it considers justified grievances.

### Soviet Reaction

Moscow endorsed Jaruzelski's appointment by reporting the move within the hour.

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Approved for Release  
Date AUG 1999

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The Poles almost certainly obtained Moscow's prior approval, and may have discussed the matter with Soviet Defense Minister Ustinov in person.

The appointment is likely to buy Kania more time with the Kremlin. The Soviets undoubtedly view the law and order implications of the appointment as a step in the right direction--one they have been urging on Warsaw. How much time Kania has actually bought, however, will depend upon the Polish party's ability to translate the symbolism into concrete actions that stem unrest.

#### Harsh Words

The main speeches at the one-day Central Committee plenum yesterday provided additional signs that the regime intends to pursue a more aggressive line toward Solidarity. Politburo members Barcikowski and Grabski leveled the harshest criticisms yet at dissidents and other "extremists" in Solidarity. They accused by name three prominent dissident leaders of being "anti-Communists" who seek to discredit the party, destabilize Poland, and weaken its alliances.

The speakers also took tough stands on issues currently under negotiation with Solidarity. They indicated that Rural Solidarity would not be registered at the meeting of the Supreme Court today and labeled as "unacceptable" Solidarity's demands for removal of corrupt officials and for public use of special government buildings.